

Artist-in-Residence  
for 1990 named: 1B



Soccer  
results: 1D

Concessions made  
for sewer project: 4A

# Farmington Observer

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## farmington FOCUS

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**SUMMER** can't be too far off.

On April 2, Farmington Hills resident Ernie Harwell, a 1981 inductee into the Baseball Hall of Fame, began his 31st season as the radio play-by-play broadcaster for the Detroit Tigers.

The friendly voice of summer's favorite pastime, Harwell, 72, is the author of "Tuned to Baseball," a 1985 book that has been re-released in paperback.

The book relates his experiences based on three decades behind the mike.

**IN the hunt.** There are still nine candidates for the Farmington school board this June.

No one backed out of the nonpartisan race by the required April 12 deadline, leaving the names of all of the original candidates on the ballot.

Two four-year terms are up for grabs this spring.

**DIDN'T** get a 1990 Census Questionnaire? Then call the U.S. Census Bureau: 1-800-999-1990.

## QUOTE of the week

A lot of the destruction comes from quick money and quick greed all for this year. They don't seem to care what happens next year.

— Joe Derek, Farmington Hills naturalist, reacting to Earth Week 1990. Story: 1A.

## what's inside

- Around Farmington . . . 4B
- Building scene . . . Sec. H
- Business . . . Sec. C
- Cable connection . . . 6B
- Classifieds . . . Sec. G, E-H
- Index . . . 7G
- Auto . . . Sec. C, F
- Real estate . . . Sec. E, H
- Employment . . . Sec. G, H
- Community corner . . . 4A
- Creative living . . . Sec. E
- Crossword puzzle . . . 13C
- Entertainment . . . 8C
- Obituaries . . . 8D
- Opinion . . . 18A
- Police/fire calls . . . 7A
- Sports . . . Sec. D
- Suburban life . . . Sec. B

### WEDDING PLANS

SPECIAL SECTION IN TODAY'S ISSUE

## Harrison grad dies skydiving

By Amy Reuch  
staff writer

Wesley Wood of Farmington Hills is remembered by family and friends as the All-American guy. Wood, 20, a 1988 Harrison High graduate and a sophomore engineering student at Purdue University, was killed Sunday in a skydiving accident near the West Lafayette, Ind., campus.

"He was a very outgoing, caring person," said Phil Rider, also a 1988 Harrison graduate. "He really took time to get to know a person."

Rider and Wood played football together at Harrison.

"He had all the facets of his life

### 'Gem of a young man'

together," said Rider, a Michigan State University sophomore. "He knew what he wanted. He had goals. "Sometimes when you do something dangerous like skydiving, you say, 'If something happens, it was meant to be.'" Rider said. "I just don't think it was meant to be in this case. I don't understand why."

Rider and Wood went skydiving together in spring 1987. They went again last summer. Last Christmas, they talked about going again.

But Rider, who was planning to go skydiving in a week, said he'll never go again. "I've quit the sport."

WOOD WAS killed shortly before 5 p.m. Sunday, said Craig Tull, Clinton County Sheriff's Department jail commander.

Wood, part of a skydiving class of nine students, jumped from a plane at 3,500 feet and pulled the main parachute. The chute opened but it malfunctioned when his arm became caught in a cord that led to the chute. Wood then pulled the reserve parachute, which became caught in the main chute, Tull said.

Police estimate Wood traveled 80-90 mph in a 1,500-foot free fall before crashing into a farm field near

Frankfort Municipal Airport, 35 miles from campus.

Wood, who lived on campus, was skydiving with Parachutes & Associates, a business not associated with Purdue University.

"He left the airplane unstable and his arm was tangled in the cord," said Mark Schlatter, who co-owns the airport-based business with his wife, Colbie, who was watching from the ground. "The reserve chute went into the main chute, preventing either from opening."

SCHLATTER BELIEVES if Wood had ridden the first chute to the

Please turn to Page 6



Wesley Wood  
'It's a great loss'



SHARON LAMIEUX/staff photographer

## Helping hand

Nancy Whitehead, mother of Farmington Hills Harrison High junior varsity first baseman Jodie Whitehead, "retrieves" a foul ball for her daughter's team with the assistance of the family's golden retriever, Moghan. The

helping hand came Monday at Walled Lake Western in a Western Lakes Activities Association girls softball game. Harrison won, 10-11. For varsity game coverage, see Page 2D.

## Bonelli's friend to be arraigned as an accessory

By Darrell Clem  
staff writer

A childhood friend of murder suspect Anthony Bonelli has been ordered to Oakland County Circuit Court, where he may face trial as an accessory in the drowning death of 17-year-old Kristina Marie Fracchia.

James Nader, 18, of Farmington Hills appeared Monday in 48th District Court in Bloomfield Township to waive a preliminary examination that had been scheduled for Tuesday. Nader pleaded not guilty Jan. 12 at his original arraignment in District Court.

Nader, accused of helping Bonelli return Fracchia's white Camaro to the scene where she was drowned in Orchard Lake, will be arraigned in circuit court at 1:30 p.m. May 10 before Judge Jessica R. Cooper. Both Bonelli and Fracchia lived in Farmington Hills at the time of her drowning.

In another development, Nader is expected to be a key prosecution witness in Bonelli's murder trial, set

to begin Monday, said Nader's Southfield attorney, Sanford Rockkind.

"We are cooperating fully with the prosecutor's office in the prosecution of Anthony Bonelli," Rockkind said. "Mr. Nader has agreed to cooperate every step of the way. We expect he will be a key witness in the trial."

NADER, RELEASED on personal bond, testified last April during a court hearing that he gave Bonelli a ride from the scene where Fracchia's body was found floating face down March 17, 1989, in shallow waters of Orchard Lake, near Commerce Road.

Nader testified that he drove his car and followed Bonelli, who wanted to return Fracchia's vehicle to the murder scene. Nader then gave Bonelli a ride from the scene, he said.

Nader, who said Bonelli had planned to kill Fracchia, also admitted to supplying Bonelli with gloves and marijuana, which were placed

Please turn to Page 6

## Peltz site eyed for new library

By Casey Hans  
staff writer

A consensus of Farmington Hills City Council members said Monday they will consider a request by the Farmington Community Library Board to allow the library to buy land at I-696 and Farmington Road for a new main branch.

The city currently owns 28 acres of what is called the Peltz property, and is negotiating to buy another landlocked, adjoining 45 acres owned by the Michigan Department of Transportation. The city has also applied for a state grant to develop the Peltz site into a \$1 million sports park.

Council members did not vote on the matter Monday, but, individually, said they were not opposed to reviewing the matter and would look at it when studying uses for the property and various facilities needs for the city.

Some publicly supported the library board's suggestion, while others said it was an idea worth reviewing. All agreed there is continued support from both Farmington and Farmington Hills to expand the library system.

"I WOULD strongly urge we consider this request from the library,"

Please turn to Page 6

## Earth's bounty not limitless, naturalist warns

### 50 hear Hills speaker urge awareness, action

More Earth Week coverage, 8A

By Noreen Flack  
staff writer

The air was clean and crisp, the sky was blue and the trees moved lightly in the breeze. Nature perked up Saturday to make a lasting impression in anticipation of Earth Day 1990, which came Sunday. And Joe Derek, a local naturalist, became a speaker for Mother Earth. His talk, "What on Earth are we doing?" took place on the grounds of

the Community Center of Farmington-Farmington Hills.

The Farmington Hills resident offered updated information to educate residents on how current lifestyles affect the environment around us.

"A lot of the destruction comes from quick money and quick greed all for this year," Derek said. "They don't seem to care what happens next year."

Derek warned 50 listeners that Mother Earth may not be lively in 100 years if we don't take measures to clean her up now.

"You can pat yourselves on the back for being here," Derek said to

the children in the audience. "You could be home watching a Ninja Turtle show or something."

DARCY STROUSBERG of Farmington Hills said her family thought she was "losing it" when she became involved with environmental issues more than one year ago.

"Everyone is more aware of what's going on," Strousberg said. "The schools are teaching kids at the elementary level, and I have noticed that many people in my neighborhood are recycling now."

Strousberg said disposable diapers

Please turn to Page 8



SHARON LAMIEUX/staff photographer

During the community center program, presenter Joe Derek of Farmington Hills explains what kinds of materials to use to make a bluebird house.